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MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

FIFTH MEETING

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 21 February 1995, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. JUSYS (Lithuania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS OF THE MEETING (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON announced that the Group of African States had nominated Mr. Sahraoui (Algeria) for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

2. Mr. Sahraoui (Algeria) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 43 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (continued) (CRC/SP/14 and Add.1-2)

3. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that, since no candidate had obtained the required majority for election as a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, a second ballot, restricted to the 10 candidates who at the previous meeting had obtained the largest number of votes, would be held to fill the five vacancies on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

4. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kotrokois (Greece) and Mr. Amor (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

5. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	146
Number of valid ballots:	146
Number of members voting:	146
Required majority:	74
Number of votes obtained:	
Mrs. Akila Belembaogo (Burkina Faso)	91
Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden)	83
Ms. Judith Karp (Israel)	77
Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov (Russian Federation)	68
Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand)	64
Ms. Sandra Prunella Mason (Barbados)	59
Mrs. Nana Araba Apt (Ghana)	57
Mgr. Luis A. Bambaren Gastelumendi (Peru)	40

Mrs. Blanca Lizzeth Rivera de Paz (Honduras) .. 33

Mr. Victor Manuel Guisa Cruz (Mexico) 33

6. Having obtained the required majority, Mrs. Akila Belembaogo (Burkina Faso), Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden) and Ms. Judith Karp (Israel) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

7. The CHAIRPERSON said that, since only three candidates had obtained the required majority for election as members of the Committee, a third ballot, restricted to the four candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining vacancies on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

8. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kotrokois (Greece) and Mr. Amor (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

9. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 147

Number of valid ballots: 147

Number of members voting: 147

Required majority: 74

Number of votes obtained:

Ms. Sandra Prunella Mason 71

Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn 68

Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov 67

Mrs. Nana Araba Apt 53

10. No candidate having obtained the required majority, a fourth vote, restricted to the same four candidates was taken by secret ballot.

11. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kotrokois (Greece) and Mr. Amor (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

12. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 142

Number of valid ballots: 142

Number of members voting: 142

Required majority: 72

Number of votes obtained:

Ms. Sandra Prunella Mason	76
Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov	61
Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn	60
Mrs. Nana Araba Apt	43

13. Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Sandra Prunella Mason (Barbados) was elected a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

14. The CHAIRPERSON said that, since only four candidates had obtained the required majority for election as members of the Committee, a fifth, unrestricted ballot, would be held to fill the remaining vacancy, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

15. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) said that his delegation was perplexed by that interpretation of the rules of procedure. The final sentence of rule 15 should be interpreted to mean that further elections were open to candidates who were still in the running, not to those who had already been eliminated.

16. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAGI (Zambia), Mr. KOLOSOV (Russian Federation), Mr. PIRIZ-BALLON (Uruguay), Miss BOUM (Cameroon) and Mr. PHANIT (Thailand) supported the interpretation of rule 15 put forward by the representative of Ghana.

17. Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAGI (Zambia), supported by Mr. OTUYELO (Nigeria), Mr. AINSO (Estonia) and Mr. POINSOT (France), suggested that the opinion of a legal expert should be sought before proceeding any further.

18. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada), supported by Mr. KOLOSOV (Russian Federation) and Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), said that there appeared to be a consensus on the interpretation of rule 15 and that the elections should therefore proceed.

19. The CHAIRPERSON said that, in view of the apparent consensus, a fifth vote, restricted to the three remaining candidates, should be taken by secret ballot.

20. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kotrokois (Greece) and Mr. Amor (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

21. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	128
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	127
Number of members voting:	127

Required majority: 64

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov 52

Mrs. Nana Araba Apt 39

Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn 36

22. No candidate having obtained the required majority, a sixth vote, restricted to the same three candidates, was taken by secret ballot.

23. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kotrokois (Greece) and Mr. Amor (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

24. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 111

Number of valid ballots: 111

Number of members voting: 111

Required majority: 56

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov 59

Mrs. Nana Araba Apt 32

Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn 20

25. Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov (Russian Federation) was elected a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OTHER MATTERS

26. Mrs. CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica) recalled that her Government had proposed an amendment to article 43, paragraph 2 of the Convention, whereby the number of experts serving on the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be increased from 10 to 18. That increase was justified by the Committee's workload and would bring the practice for that Committee into line with that for the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

27. Mr. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) endorsed the Costa Rican proposal. He believed that an increase in the number of experts was fully justified.

28. Mrs. MORGAN (Mexico) said that she too supported the Costa Rican proposal. Despite its considerable workload, the Committee on the Rights of the Child had the smallest number of members of all the human rights treaty bodies. She hoped that the proposal would be examined at the next meeting of States parties.

29. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that he had observed an increasing imbalance in the composition of committees of experts. While recognizing that members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child acted as independent experts, not as representatives of their regions, he believed that the different legal systems, cultures and religions should be adequately represented so that, in examining reports from States parties, the Committee would be in a position to deal sensitively with all the issues involved.

30. Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAGI (Zaire) supported the statement by the representative of Algeria. No region could claim to have any technical superiority with regard to the rights of the child. He was in favour of a system whereby each region would be represented on the basis of a quota.

31. Mr. ABOU HADID (Syria) endorsed the statements by the representatives of Algeria and Zaire.

The meeting rose at 8.40 p.m.